

Museum Notes

HOBART HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE STORY OF A LEDGER

Inflation was a serious problem to the Confederacy during the Civil War. Diversion of the labor force to the army, poor harvests, enemy devastation, currency inflation and the greed of speculators sent prices skyrocketing.

In Richmond, Virginia, Matthew Jory, hospital steward for Jackson Hospital, recorded the hospital's expenditures. In November 1863, the entries included:

2 bushels sweet potatoes at \$40 a bushel;

32½ dozen eggs at \$10 a dozen;

20 pounds of butter at \$9 a pound;

17½ gallons of milk at \$8 a gallon;

7 bushels of tomatoes at \$30 a bushel;

9 chickens at \$6.50 each.

Jory, born in England, in 1836, came to the United States when he was about 17. He settled in Fredricksburg, Virginia, where he engaged in carriage making. Driven out in 1862 during the famous battle there, he went to Richmond where he became hospital steward.

At the close of the war, he moved to Mechanicsville and began business again. In 1870, he moved first to Valparaiso, then to Hobart, engaging in carriage and wagon-making. At one time he held a half interest in the Hobart Mill and also owned a furniture store. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge, the IOOF, and the Unitarian Church. Among his many contributions to Hobart was the Joryville subdivision—between 8th and 9th streets, Lincoln to Linda. He died in 1895 and is buried in the old Hobart cemetery.

The Jackson Hospital ledger came to Hobart with Jory. In later years he used its pages to record his business accounts. The ledger along with many other items from the Jory family and its descendants can be seen at the Museum.

We have Christmas gifts for you, too. Museum tiles, just issued this fall, would be good gifts. They can be purchased at the museum, Saturday, December 15.

The Museum will be closed December 22 and December 29 for the holidays.

While we are talking about Christmas and gifts, we'd like to ask Santa for a blacksmith's anvil for Phil Stafford so he can assemble a blacksmith's shop. And for our president, Dorothy Ballantyne, an unexpected \$500 to be applied to the mortgage so that the balance agrees with the figure she is always under-quoting!

Another treasured memory came to us recently from Kenneth Norris who presented the Society with a hay knife which had been used for many harvest seasons in his family.

Santa made an early visit to the Museum with a Majestic wood-burning cook stove. Bill Hebert told Santa to deliver the stove to the museum in honor of his wife Dottie. Bill told us that the stove brings back the memory of many delicious pies which Dottie's mother baked in a similar stove when he was courting Dottie. Many thanks to Bill and Dottie and we hope they have many a pie in their future!